

FORM PTO-1390
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

P-1934-US

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/806056

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/IL99/00516INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
28 September 1999PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
28 September 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KAFRI, Oded

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:
 - 1) Postcard
 - 2) Notification of the Recording of a Change

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$1000.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$690.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 690.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

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| CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Total claims | - 20 = | | X \$18.00 |
| Independent claims | - 3 = | | X \$80.00 |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) | | | + \$270.00 |

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TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 690.00

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above
are reduced by 1/2.

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SUBTOTAL =

\$ 690.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

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TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 690.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +

\$

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 690.00

Amount to be
refunded:

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charged:

\$ 690.00

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 05-0649 in the amount of \$690.00 to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0649. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Note: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

EITAN, PEARL, LATZER & COHEN-ZEDEK

One Crystal Park, Suite 210

2011 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA 22202-3709

Tel: (703) 486-0600 Fax: (703) 487-0800

SIGNATURE:

Mark S. Cohen

NAME

42,425

REGISTRATION NUMBER

A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A
TELEPHONE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of sending voice messages
5 between remotely located telephones and text messages as voice messages
from a computer to remotely located telephones, utilizing e-mail properties.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Forwarding of e-mail to a fax is well known and an example can be seen
in the functions of software such as Microsoft's "Outlook" application. Forwarding
10 of e-mail to a telephone is also known, such as the Mailpush service provided by
several cellular telephone companies, for example, as described on their web site
(<http://www.mailpush.com>). In this method a server computer checks the e-mail
box of each registered client and forwards the e-mail to the mailbox owner's
telephone and reads the text through the voice modem or CTI card (for example
15 Dialogic's Proline/2V or Dialogic/4, Dialogic Corporation, 1115 Route Ten,
Parsippany, N.J. 070-4596, USA).

A voice message can be transmitted as an attached wave file that can
be played to the telephone directly, or be converted to text using a Speech-to-text
engine such as commercially available from IBM and Lernout & Hauspie). The
20 receiver of the e-mail can record a reply wave file through the telephone and use
the reply function of the e-mail software to send a reply via the telephone.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of sending messages, via the internet, originating from a text file, prepared on a computer, to a remotely located telephone as a voice message. The present invention also
5 provides a method of sending and receiving voice messages between remotely located telephones.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a method of sending and receiving voice messages, as well as faxes, between telephones which are at remote locations, which overcomes the limitations and disadvantages
10 of prior art devices.

The invention utilizes e-mail properties for forwarding faxes and e-mails for forwarding voice messages to a telephone. In one embodiment, an e-mail is sent to a remote station and automatically forwarded to a telephone or a fax machine, as desired by the sender.

15 There is thus provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to a telephone. The method includes the steps of:

preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding information of at least one addressee thereto, the forwarding information including at least the
20 e-mail address of a remote proxy server;

sending the e-mail message via the Internet to the remote proxy server's e-mail address;

the remote proxy server ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone number.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the forwarding information contains a facsimile or telephone number.

5 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of sending the e-mail message includes the steps of:

routing the e-mail message to a MAPI (Message Application Program Interface) Spooler located on a local proxy server coupled to the computer; and

converting the e-mail message to a voice message format.

10 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the local proxy server includes a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem and the step of sending the e-mail message includes the step of the CTI card or the voice modem transmitting the voice message.

15 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of ascertaining the addressee's telephone number includes the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up database table located at the remote proxy server, the look-up database table includes at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet
20 address.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of forwarding the email message as a voice message includes the step of:

verifying the sender's details; and

if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of forwarding the email message as a voice message includes the step of converting text messages to speech format.

5 Additionally, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the method further includes the steps of :

 recording the addressee's reply to the voice message as a wave file;
and

 transmitting the reply via the Internet to a Voice Proxy Message Store
10 Server located at the local proxy server.

 There is also provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a forwarder which includes means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming e-mail message, means for verifying the sender, and means for forwarding the voice message to the addressee of the forwarding
15 information.

 The forwarder further includes a look-up table containing at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the forwarder further includes means for converting the e-mail message
20 to a voice message.

 Finally, there is also provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a method of forwarding an incoming message to a telephone. The message includes forwarding information of at least one addressee attached thereto. The method includes the steps of:

ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and
forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone
number.

The incoming message may be any one of a group including faxes,
5 telephone voice messages and text messages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of the inter-city communication system between remote locations, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

 Fig. 2 is a detailed schematic illustration of the Voice Proxy Servers used in the communication system of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of a sample e-mail form for use with the system of Figs. 1 and 2; and

 Fig. 4/A; 4/B is a schematic flow chart illustration of the operation of sending and forwarding messages.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Reference is now made to Figs 1 and 2. Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of the inter-city communication system, generally designated 10, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a detailed schematic illustration of the Voice Proxy Servers used in the communication system 10.

As illustrated in the example of Fig. 1, inter-city communication system 10 comprises a computer user 12 located in city A who wishes to send a fax, or a voice message, to a telephone at an address 14 in city B, which is located at a long distance area code from city A. Instead of messages being sent from city A to city B via a long-distance carrier, an e-mail message is sent from computer user 12 via a local proxy server computer 14 connected to the computer, and via the Internet 15, to a remote proxy server computer 16 located in the local dialing code area of city B. The remote proxy server computer 16 forwards the received message to a telephone 18 or fax 19 in city B.

The local proxy server computer 14 and remote proxy server computer 16 comprise similar components, including a transport provider 20, address book 22, MAPI (Message Application Program Interface) Spooler 24, Voice Proxy Telephone Server 25, Voice Proxy Message Store 26 and a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card 28 or alternatively a voice modem 30. For clarity, in order to differentiate between the local proxy server computer 14 and the remote proxy server computer 16, each of these components are identified by either suffix a (for local proxy server computer 14) or suffix b (for remote proxy server computer 16).

Reference is now made to Fig. 3, which is a schematic illustration of a sample e-mail form, generally designated 32, for use with the inter-city

communication system 10. E-mail form 32 includes at least two addresses; the e-mail address 34 of remote proxy server computer 16 (city B) and the telephone (or fax) number of the addressee 36 in the locality of city B. In addition, the e-mail form 32 preferably includes details of the sender, such as name 38 and email address 40 and may also include a password 42 or any other means of restricting regular senders from using this service, and any other additional information, such as the time frame (T1 to T2) during which the message should be sent 44, an alternative telephone (or fax) number 46 for the addressee, and any other details 48. It will be appreciated that the e-mail form 32 may be not limited to the amount of information which may be added.

When the remote proxy server computer 16 in City B receives the incoming message for an addressee, it checks whether the incoming e-mail contains any additional data such as a forwarding telephone (or fax) address, and whether the sender is an authorized user of the service and thus whether the e-mail message may be forwarded.

If the incoming message is authorized for onward delivery, the remote proxy server computer 16 activates a telephone call (a local call) to the addressee, receives the answer and sends a confirmation of receipt, via e-mail, back to local proxy server computer 14 in city A.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the remote proxy server computer 16 in city B utilizes its address book 22b, which is constructed to contain telephone numbers corresponding to internet addresses to call any telephone. Thus, the remote proxy server computer 16 may call the addressee based on the

database information within its address book 26b even if the incoming message is lacking this information.

It will be appreciated that the system is applicable to a network of remote stations call any of a network of remote receiving stations (B) which
5 handle the incoming e-mail traffic.

In a further embodiment of the invention, computers A and B may form part of a LAN or WAN network with the computer B acting as a proxy server for voice messages.

The operation of the service utilizing the Voice Proxy Server for sending
10 and forwarding messages is now described with reference to the flow chart diagram of Fig. 4.

The Client (sender) prepares the message on his computer, chooses recipients and sends the message with addressee details. (step 202).

The messages are routed to the MAPI (Message Application Program
15 Interface) Spooler 24a on the local proxy server computer 14 (step 204). The MAPI checks the addressee information and calls the corresponding transport provider 20a (step 206). In the case of a telephone address (T-Mail), the transport provider extracts the message from the MAPI message store and converts it to the Voice Proxy's own message format (step 208) and then makes a
20 connection to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26a and sends the message through the Internet (step 210).

At the other end, after the new mail messages have arrived at the remote proxy server computer 16, the remote Voice Proxy's transport provider

20b connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26b (step 220). Messages are stored in the MAPI receiving folder 24b (Inbox) (step 222).

The Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26b, checks the outgoing messages queue and gets
5 messages for each detected phone line (step 224).

Then the Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b extracts information regarding the phone destination (phone number) from the message's recipient table (step 226) checks whether the sender is an authorized user of the service and thus whether the e-mail message may be forwarded (step 228).

10 The Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b extracts the body of the message (plain text), text and any wave attachments (step 230), and initiates a phone call to the addressee (step 232).

Messages having Wave attachments are played through the wave device associated with TAPI (Telephone Application Program Interface) phone
15 line directly using a wave API (Application Program Interface). Alternatively for Text messages, the text is converted using a Text-to-Speech engine. The API (Application Program Interface) and Text-to-Speech engine may be any suitable commercially available known in the art product.

The addressee's reply to the wave file is then recorded (step 234) and a
20 reply message created with a wave attachment (step 236). The file is sent back to the Voice Proxy Message Store Server 26a of the originating local proxy server computer 14, which places this reply message in the appropriate mailbox (step 238).

In a further embodiment of the invention, fax messages and voice messages (via a telephone, for example) can be sent via the local proxy server and the Internet to the remote proxy server. In thus case, the local proxy server computer 14 which treats the telephone (or fax) message in a manner similar to
5 the addressee's reply to the wave file (steps 234 and 236), described hereinabove with respect to Fig. 4.

It will be further appreciated that the present invention is not limited by what has been described hereinabove and that numerous modifications, all of which fall within the scope of the present invention, exist. Rather the scope of the
10 invention is defined by the claims which follow:

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CLAIMS

1. A method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to a telephone, comprising the steps of:

preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding
5 information of at least one addressee thereto, said forwarding
information including at least the e-mail address of a remote proxy
server;
sending the e-mail message via the Internet to said remote proxy
server's e-mail address;
10 said remote proxy server ascertaining the telephone number of
the at least one addressee; and
forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said
telephone number.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said forwarding information
15 contains a facsimile or telephone number.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said step of sending the e-mail
message comprises the steps of:

routing the e-mail message to a MAPI (Message Application
Program Interface) Spooler located on a local proxy server coupled to
20 said computer; and
converting the e-mail message to a voice message format.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said local proxy server comprises a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem and wherein said step of sending the e-mail message comprises the step of: said CTI card or said voice modem transmitting said voice

5 message.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of ascertaining the addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

verifying the sender's details; and
if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

converting text messages to speech format.

8. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising the steps of :

recording the addressee's reply to the voice message as a wave file; and

transmitting the reply via the Internet to a Voice Proxy Message Store Server located at said local proxy server.

9. A forwarder comprising:

means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming
e-mail message;

means for verifying the sender, and

5 means for forwarding said voice message to the addressee of
said forwarding information.

10. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

a look-up table containing at least the addressee's telephone
number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

10 11. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for converting said e-mail message to a voice message.

12. A method of forwarding an incoming message to a telephone, said
message comprising forwarding information of at least one addressee
attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

15 ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee;

and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said
telephone number.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of ascertaining the
20 addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up
database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up

database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

5 verifying the sender's details; and

 if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:
converting text messages to speech format.

10 16. A method according to claim 12, wherein said incoming message is any
one of a group including faxes, telephone voice messages and text
messages.

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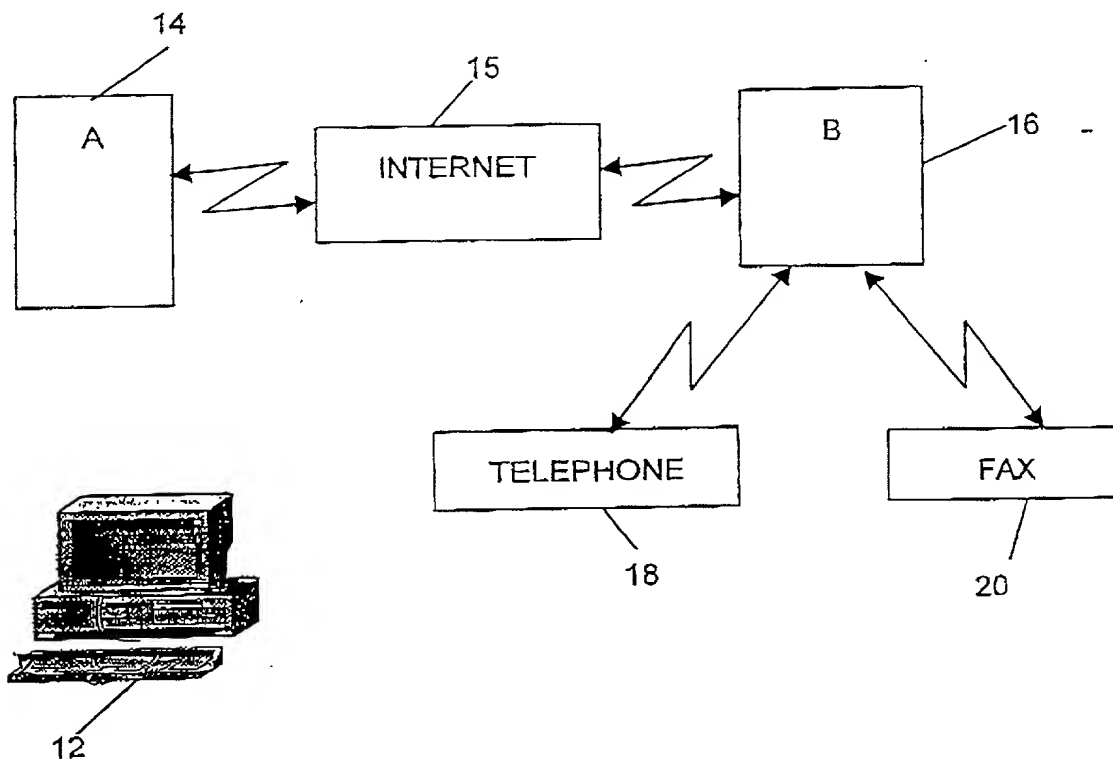


FIG. 1

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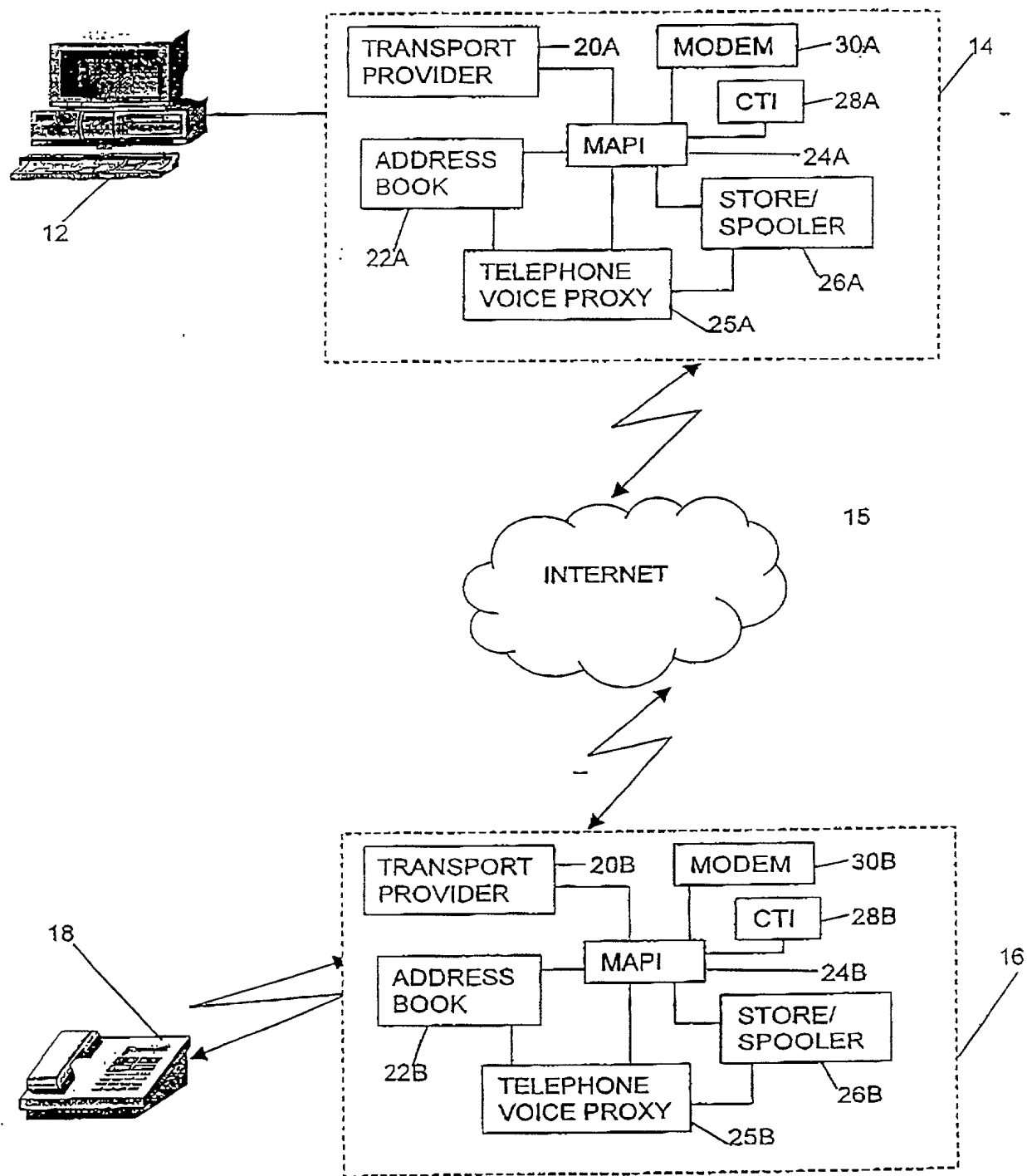


FIG. 2

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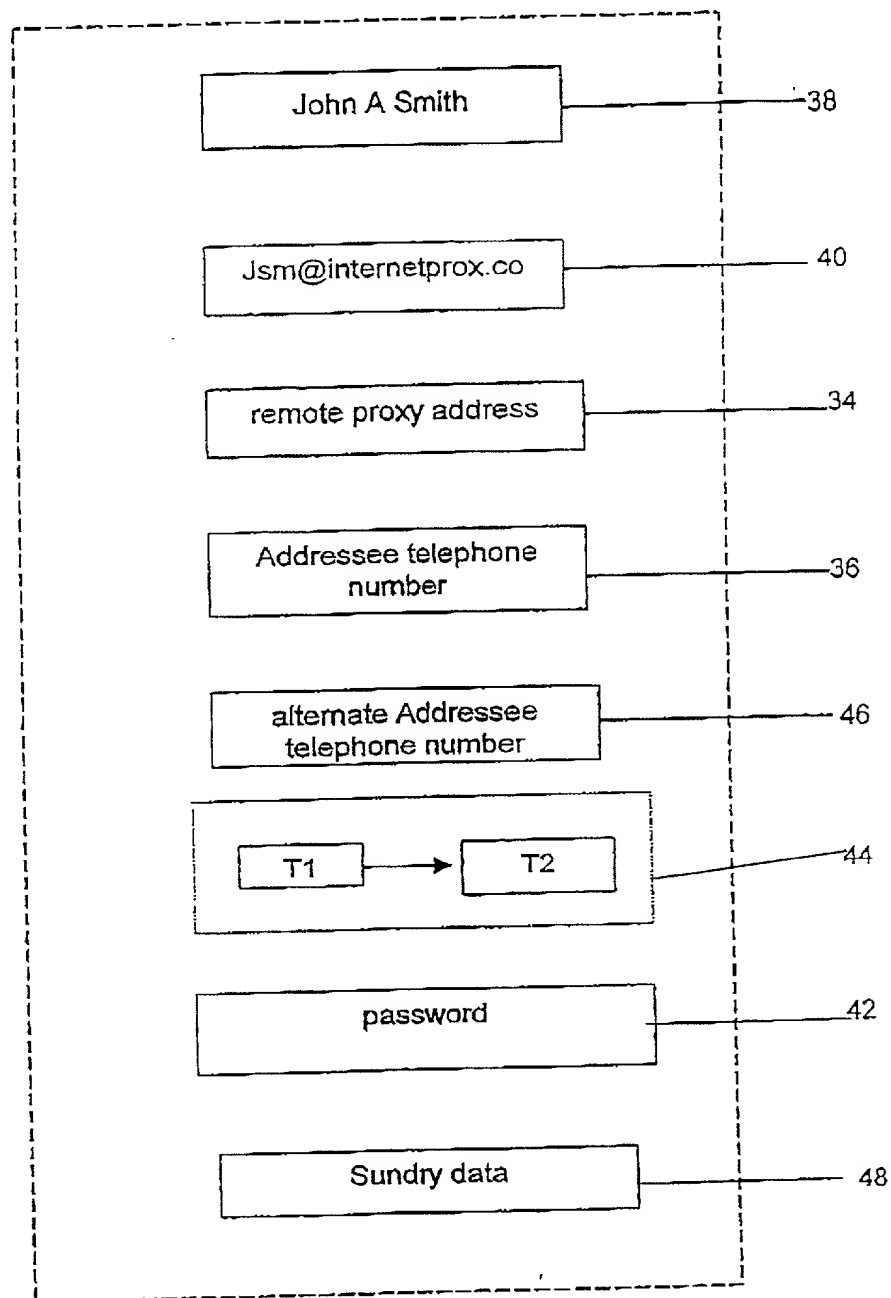


FIG. 3

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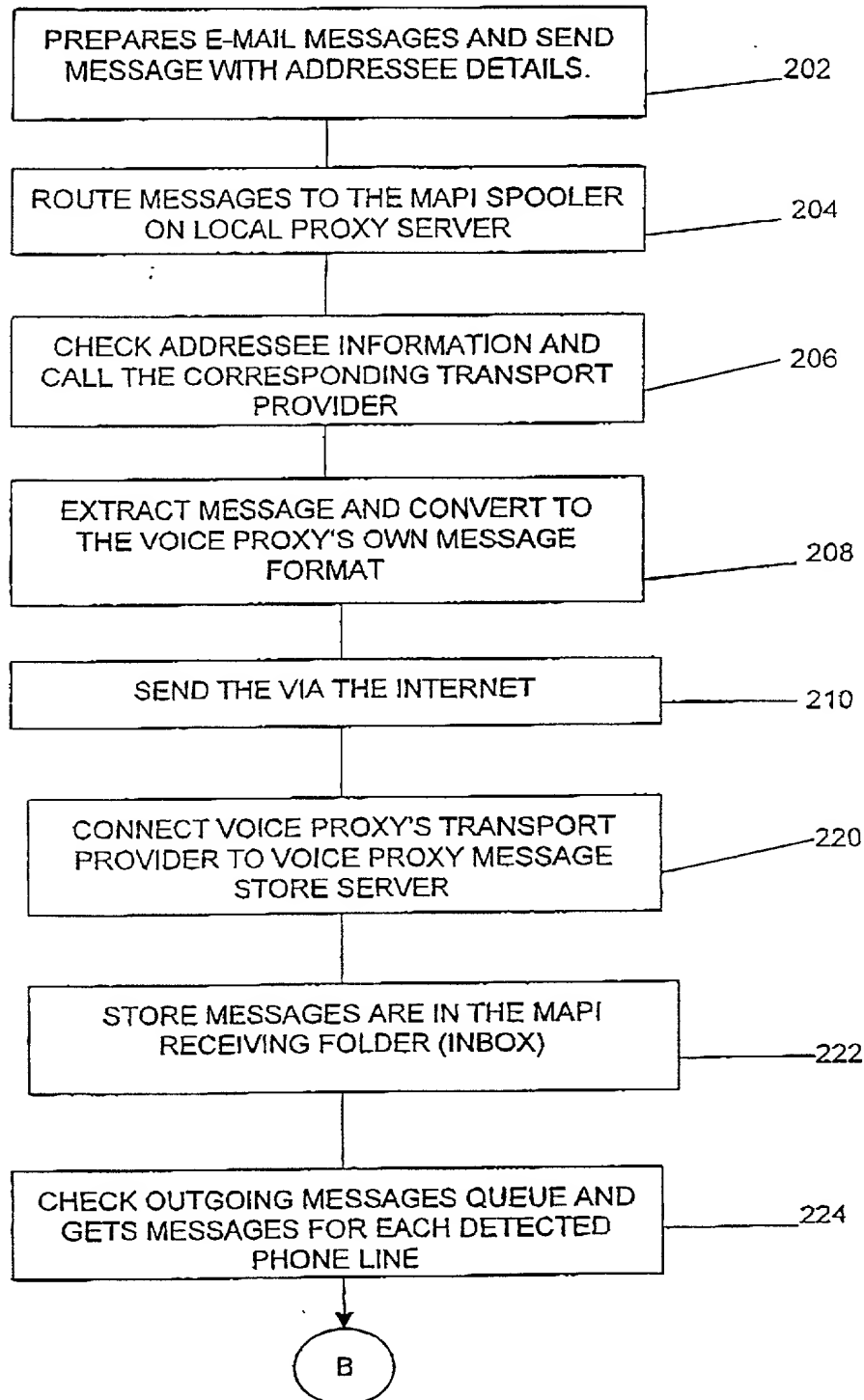


FIG. 4/A

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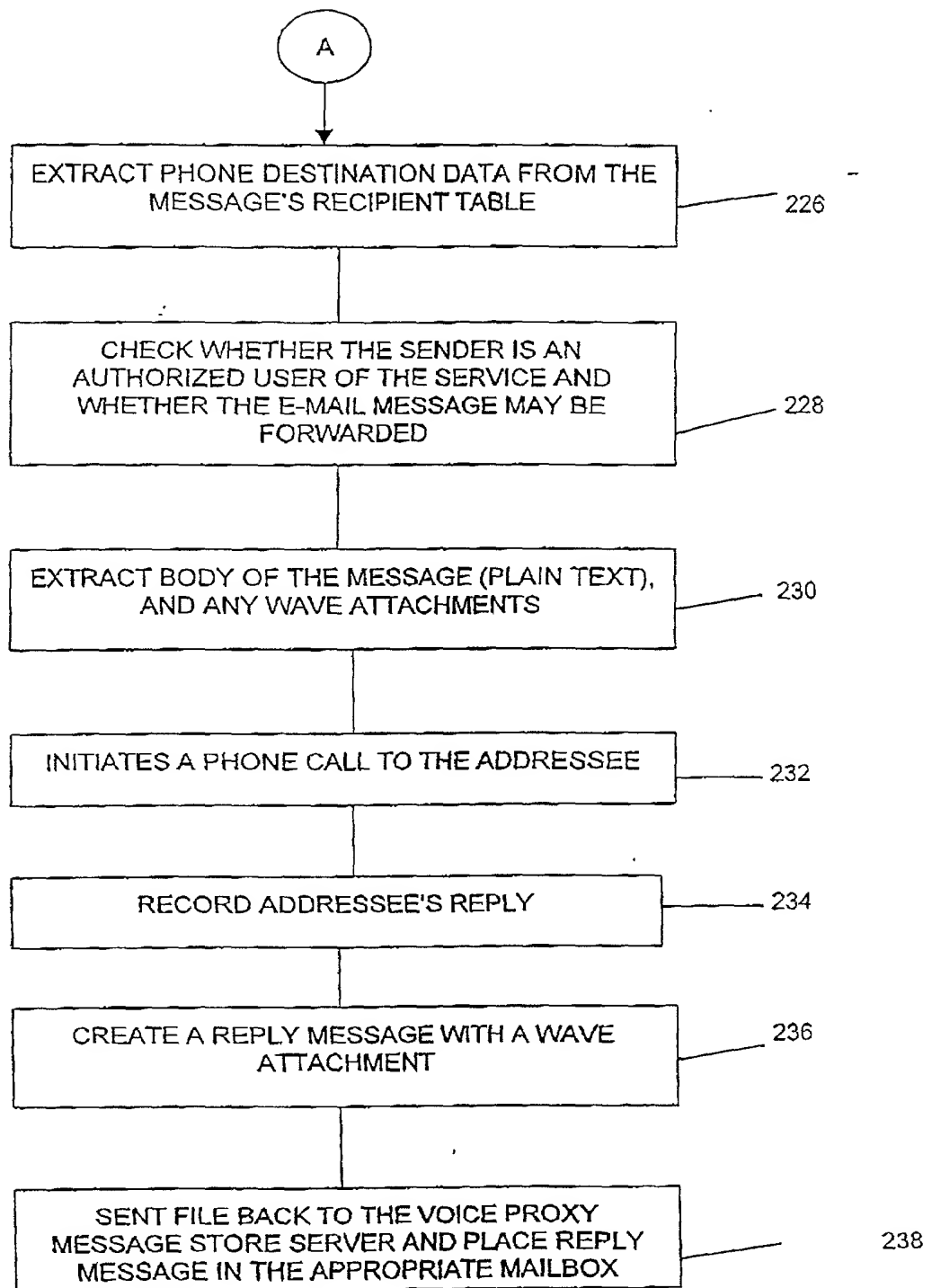


FIG. 4/B

Attorney Docket No.: P-1934-US

#3

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below under my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE

the Specification of which

- ☐ is attached hereto
☒ was filed on September 28, 1999
 as United States Application Number or PCT International
 Application No. PCT/IL99/00516
 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified Specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any provisional application filed in the United States in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §1.119(e), or any application for patent that has been converted to a Provisional Application within one (1) year of its filing date, or any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FILED APPLICATION(S)

| <u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u> | <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>(DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED)</u> | <u>PRIORITY CLAIMED</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 60/102,321 | US | 28 September 1998 | |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application listed below, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in any prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a), which occurred

Attorney Docket No.: P-1934-US

between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE (DAY/MONTH/YEAR) | STATUS - PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 60/102,321 | 28 September 1998 | EXPIRED |
| PCT/IL99/00516 | 28 September 1999 | |

I hereby appoint as my attorney(s) and agent(s) Heidi M. Brun (Agent, Registration No. 35,104), or Daniel J. Swirsky (Agent, Registration No. 45,148) or Mark S. Cohen (Attorney, Registration No. 42,425) or Rochel L. Abboudi (Agent, Registration No. 44,490) or Suzanne Erez (Agent, Registration No. 46,688) or Vladimir Sherman (Attorney, Registration No. 43,116) or David Klein (Agent, Registration No. 41,118) said attorney(s) and agent(s) with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please address all correspondence regarding this application to:

EITAN, PEARL, LATZER, & COHEN-ZEDEK
ONE CRYSTAL PARK, SUITE 210
2011 CRYSTAL DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3709

Direct all telephone calls to (703) 486-0600 and all facsimiles at (703) 486-0800.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: KAFRI, Oded

FULL RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 3 Ehud Street, Beersheva 84234, Israel ILX

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: Israel

FULL POST OFFICE ADDRESS: same

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR O. Kafri

DATE 29.5.2001